

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 2-9 and 11-19 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1 and 10 are currently being amended.

Claims 20-23 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 10 and 20-23 are now pending in this application. Please note that withdrawn from consideration claims 7-9 and 14-15 have been canceled in this response, whereby Applicants reserve the right to prosecute those claims in a divisional application, if desired.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10-13 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-203211 to Yuji (Machine Translation). This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of now-canceled claims 2-6, whereby the combination of those features, as recited in presently pending independent claim 1, are not believed to be disclosed or suggested by Yuji.

For example, claim 1 recites that the encoder has coding information for each color region judged by the color region judging section. While Yuji describes the use of a Huffman table for judging a color space (see numbered paragraph 0025 of Yuji's machine translation), there is no description in Yuji that the Huffman table is used for each color region judged by a color region judging section.

Presently pending independent claim 10 has been amended to include the features of now-canceled claims 11-13, whereby the combination of those features, as recited in presently pending independent claim 10, are not believed to be disclosed or suggested by Yuji.

In particular, presently pending claim 10 recites a correcting section which corrects the color image signal output from the decompressing section corresponding to the judgment information supplied from the color region judgment section; and a code separating section which separates the coded data added to the compressed color image signal and supplies the separated coded data to the decompressing section. Such features are not disclosed or suggested by Yuji. The Office Action asserts that it is inherent in the system of Yuji that the header is not decompressed and that only the Huffman coded data is decompressed. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion, since Yuji's system appears to perform huffman processing to all of the data, including the header.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated by Yuji.

New Claims:

New method claims 20 and 21 have been added, whereby those claims recite features that are believed to patentably distinguish over the disclosure of Yuji. New dependent claims 22 and 23 recite features described on pages 14 and 15 of the specification, for example, whereby such features are believed to provide a separate basis of patentability for those claims, beyond the reasons given above for their base claim 1.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Response, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 9, 2006

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Phillip J. Articola

Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819